



The Senate of The State of Texas

DAN PATRICK
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

June 1, 2018

CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol, Room 2E.13
Post Office Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-0001
Fax: (512) 463-8668

Senator Larry Taylor, Chair
Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711

Chairman Taylor,

Thank you for your dedication in leading the Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security and for your ongoing leadership of the Senate Education Committee. As you know, I am committed to fostering a safe and secure learning environment in our public and charter schools across Texas.

In pursuit of that goal and in furtherance of recently creating and naming you chair of the Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security, please find below the issues I am charging the committee to study and report findings on.

- Improve the infrastructure and design of Texas schools to reduce security threats, and discuss various proposals to harden school facilities, including limiting access points, improving screening and detecting of weapons, retrofitting school facilities with improved locks, emergency alarm systems, and monitoring cameras.
- Study school security options and resources, including, but not limited to, the school marshal program, school police officers, armed school personnel, the Texas School Safety Center, and other training programs to determine what improvements can be made to provide school districts and charter schools with more robust security options.
- Examine the root cause of mass murder in schools including, but not limited to, risk factors such as mental health, substance use disorders, anger management, social isolation, the impact of high intensity media coverage — the so-called “glorification” of school shooters — to determine the effect on copycat shootings, and the desensitization

to violence resulting from video games, music, film, and social media. Recommend strategies to early identify and intercept high-risk students, as well as strategies to promote healthy school culture, including character education and community support initiatives.

- Examine whether current protective order laws are sufficient or whether the merits of Extreme Risk Protective Orders, or "Red Flag" laws, should be considered for seeking a temporary removal of firearms from a person who poses an immediate danger to themselves or others, only after legal due process is provided with a burden of proof sufficient to protect Second Amendment rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

As always, if I or my office can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. Nothing could be more important than providing an excellent education to our students in a safe and secure environment

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Patrick", written in a cursive style.

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick

CC: Patsy Spaw
Secretary of the Senate